

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Copley Square, Boston

Built in 1888, this is the first major example of Beaux-Arts-inspired architecture in the country. Symmetrical in design, the monumental building resembles an Italian Renaissance palace. An unexpected feature behind its formal facade is the large interior courtyard. The Boston Library, designed by Charles Follen McKim and embellished with sculpture and murals by noted artists of the time, set a precedent for grand-scale urban libraries across the country. It is an architectural centerpiece of Copley Square.